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## NEWS & EVENTS

### Army Veterinary Corps Honors CVM Alumnus

U.S. Army Maj. Troy Creason, DVM '04, received the 2014 Lt. Col. Daniel Holland Leadership Award. The award is given annually to recognize one U.S. Army Veterinary Corps officer who best exemplifies and has made significant contributions in leadership within the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. Creason serves as the executive officer of the Veterinary Corps Chief Office based at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

In documenting Creason's accomplishments deserving of the award, his nominator, Capt. Jason Crawford, cited the major's service as the deputy commander for the 218th Medical Detachment Veterinary Services during the unit's one-year deployment to Iraq.

"Major Creason's actions contributed to the introduction of contractor veterinarians to ethically continue protecting the remaining non-Department of Defense working dog population," according to the nomination. "His actions reduced the dependence on U.S. military veterinarians in Iraq expediting the Presidential-directed retrograde of U.S. forces."

Creason was also credited with supervising an investigation into a potential foodborne illness outbreak. After the investigation identified multiple hazardous pathogens, Creason drafted an executive summary that led to a theater-wide order prohibiting local vendors on U.S. bases throughout Iraq. This eliminated a significant public health risk for all Department of Defense personnel deployed to Iraq.



*Brig. Gen. John Poppe (right), the current chief of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, presents the 2014 Lt. Col. Daniel Holland Leadership Award to MU CVM alumnus Maj. Troy Creason during the American Veterinary Medical Association convention held in July in Denver.*

Creason's contributions extend beyond his combat deployment, according to the nomination.

"He has worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to improve the military relevance of Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician training given to VC officers. This training prepares officers across the government for worldwide mobilization to potentially catastrophic domestic and bioterrorism events."

Upon receipt of the award Creason stated, "It is a true honor to be recognized by subordinates, peers and superiors alike with this award not only for what it represents but also for whom it represents. Lt. Col. Holland exemplified the concept of reliable and strong, yet compassionate, leadership. I will continue to strive for that type of impact throughout my life."

Creason earned a bachelor of science degree in 1995 at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He went on to receive a master of engineering management in 2000 from the University of Missouri – Rolla, now known as Missouri University of Science and Technology. After completing his doctor of veterinary medicine at MU, he undertook a master's degree in public health at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, which he received in 2010. Shortly thereafter he became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine.

Creason has received a number of military decorations, including a Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Overseas Tour Award.

His most recent honor is named for Lt. Col. Daniel Edward Holland, who died May 18, 2006, while on a civil affairs mission in Iraq. Holland, who served in the Veterinary Corps, was killed, along with three other soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter, by a roadside bomb near Baghdad.

Maj. Creason credits his wife, Joy Creason, from Dixon, Missouri, and their five children, with his opportunity for success in his career.

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